Albany for Environmental Health

Asian Immigrant Women Advocates

Breast Cancer Action

Butte Environmental Council

California Church IMPACT

California Indian Environmental Alliance

California Nurses Association

Coalition for Clean Air

Center for Environmental Health

> Center for Third World Organizing

Citizens for East Shore Parks

Citizens for the Albany Shoreline

Ecological Options Network

> Environment California

Environmental Law Foundation

Green Schools Initiative

Healthy San Leandro

Learning Disabilities Association of California

Parents for a Safer Environment

Pesticide Watch

Planning and Conservation League

Santa Cruz Women's International League for Peace and Justice

Search for the Cause

Sequoia Audubon Society

Stop the Spray. ORG

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The Honorable Nicole Parra Assembly Committee on Agriculture P.O. Box 942849 Sacramento, CA 94249

April 4, 2008

RE: Support for AB 2892 (Swanson), AB 2763 (Laird), AB 2764 (Hancock), AB 2765 (Huffman), AB 2760 (Leno) and SCR 87 (Migden), ACR 117 (Laird)

Dear Assemblymember Parra:

We are writing in support the package of aerial spray legislation, AB 2892, AB 2763, AB 2764, AB 2765 and AB 2760 and related resolutions SCR 87 and ACR 117. We support this legislation because Californians have a right to informed consent regarding pesticides sprayed by the state over homes and communities.

The current aerial pesticide spraying for the Light Brown Apple Moth (LBAM) denies Californians their constitutional right to safety. Spraying began in Monterey and Santa Cruz counties in 2007 as part of an emergency eradication effort by the California Department for Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and resulted in hundreds of health complaints as well as reports of environmental damage. The pesticides sprayed over these populated areas and sensitive ecosystems have not been tested for long-term human exposure and contain ingredients known to be toxic to humans and aquatic life. The spray program is planned to continue for many years and to expand to the San Francisco Bay Area this summer despite great public opposition even though independent scientists say the spray is unnecessary and unlikely to be effective, and that the moth has already been in California for many years without causing damage.

AB 2892 (Swanson), the Aerial Spray Inform and Consent Act, is central to the package as it protects citizens' constitutional right of informed consent by requiring a vote of consent by affected residents before aerial spraying of pesticides can take place over an urban area.

AB 2760 (Leno) calls for completion of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) before aerial application of pesticides in urban areas. The EIR process for the LBAM eradication program has only just begun and will not be completed before spraying resumes this summer.

AB 2763 (Laird) requires advance planning for invasive species so that potential future control programs are disclosed ahead of time and subjected to greater scrutiny than they now receive.

AB2764 (Hancock) prohibits aerial spray of urban areas without a governor-declared state of emergency. The current eradication program only needed approval by State staff who are not directly responsible to the voters.

AB2765 (Huffman) requires disclosure of pesticide ingredients, examination of alternatives to aerial spraying, and a public hearing. Currently, neither state agencies nor the chemical manufacturers are required to disclose all pesticide ingredients.

These bills collectively provide the information needed for meaningful informed consent, and the mechanism for consent. California residents need to have access to full information about the pesticides sprayed overhead and deserve to make the choice about exposures to themselves and their families.

We the undersigned support efforts to fix a broken system in California by providing both the information and the process to enable communities to protect themselves from the dangers posed by aerial pesticide spraying. For these reason, we strongly support these five bills and two resolutions and urge the Legislature to do so as well.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Dorenz

President

Albany for Environmental Health

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Executive Director

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Parents for a Safer Environment

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Rene Guerrero Legislative Advocate

Planning and Conservation League

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Marin Cancer Project/Search for the Cause

Carol Masterson President

Sequoia Audubon Society

John Russo Executive Director StopTheSpray.ORG

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